the idea of having such a law. Most of the States are in favour of such a legislation though they have expressed apprehensions about possible misuse of various provisions of the Bill under consideration, including violation of human rights. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has opined that there was no need to enact such a law.

The Government would take into account the views/comments of the State Governments as well as the NHRC, which are now available, and so modify the Bill that it harmonizes, to the extent possible, the safeguards for civil liberties with security imperatives. The Government would also hold consultations with political parties, other interest groups, etc. before taking a final view in the matter.

Home Guard Battalions

†*538. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of men and women Home Guard Battalions separately in the country ;

(b) whether the number of women Home Guard Battalions is insufficient in the country ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government intend to introduce special recruitment drive in order to promote women Home Guard Battalions; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) to (c) There are no separate men and women Home Guard Battalions in the country. However, State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to determine the strength of women Home Guards within the overall target strength allotted to them. The present strength of women Home Guards in the country is 19467 against the overall raised strength of 490186 Home Guards.

(d) and (e) Being a state subject, it is for the State Governments/U.T Administrations concerned to encourage enrolment of women Home Guards.

Power shortage in Rajasthan

*539. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of power in the State of Rajasthan;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.